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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Daniel D. Inouye
Chairman, Subcommittee on Communications
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
United States Senate
227 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye:

Thank you for your letter that addresses the potential impact of our microwave rechannalization proceeding on the existing operation and planned expansion of public radio program distribution by satellite. You express support for the Commission's proposal to provide spectrum for emerging technologies, but express concern that rechannalization of the C-band (3.7-4.2 GHz) could disrupt the current guard band that assures interference-free operation of public radio's satellite distribution system.

At the request of existing 2 GHz licensees and equipment manufacturers, in its "emerging technologies" proceeding (ET Docket No. 92-9) the Commission proposed specific channelization regulations to govern access to bands above 3 GHz, including the C-band. The purpose of this proposal is to facilitate access to suitable higher frequency bands by incumbent fixed microwave licensees currently operating at 2 GHz. This proceeding is one of the Commission's most important efforts. The primary issue before the Commission is finding ways to strike a balance in spectrum allocation policies that will accommodate new technologies while ensuring that existing users in both the 2 GHz "emerging technologies" band and in the bands above 3 GHz can maintain and enhance the quality of their current operations.

Given that spectrum generally is in short supply only in urban areas, and that the C-band is only one small part of the spectrum under consideration for relocation of 2 GHz licensees, I do not foresee an impact upon public radio's plans to expand services to rural, unserved and underserved markets. Please be assured that the Commission does not intend to impair in any way public radio's satellite distribution system, and will carefully

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Honorable Daniel D. Inouye

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consider the matter before adopting final regulations in this docket. In this regard, I am making your letter part of the record in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alfred C. Sikes", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alfred C. Sikes
Chairman

Special Congressional

Fred 10/20

CONGRESSIONAL ISSUE TRACKING SYSTEM
Oct 20, 1992

SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9202885	10/20/1992	10/09/1992	11/02/1992	10/29/1992

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Senator	Daniel K Inouye	ACS

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
personal view	OET spectrum allocation information

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
OET	SED	FAB	

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
10/20/1992	10/20/92		

REMARKS: an original letter for each signator.

Done to F.O. 10/27/92 noon.

ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAIRMAN

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

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October 9, 1992

The Honorable Alfred Sikes
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

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OCT 20 1992

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
OCPA

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to express concern about the potential negative impact a proposal currently under consideration by the Commission -- ET Docket NO. 92-9 -- could have on public radio expansion. Reaching unserved and underserved public radio audiences is a goal we both feel strongly about, and we hope that no decision by the Commission will hamper public radio's efforts to achieve that goal. We encourage you to consider the investment that the federal government has made in the public radio satellite system when you consider this docket.

In fiscal years 1991-93, Congress appropriated funds for replacement of the public television and radio satellite interconnection systems. Appropriations over the three year period totaled \$200 million -- \$50 million of which is being used by public radio to replace its satellite system. After carefully weighing the alternatives, public radio made the decision to continue using C-band technology in its second generation system. C-Band technology has the advantage of requiring very little ground segment change, since public radio's first generation system was C-band, and continues the operational flexibility and high-quality technical performance which has served the public radio satellite system well for the past twelve years. Public radio has purchased two C-band transponders to accommodate its needs through the year 2004.

During the recent Corporation for Public Broadcasting reauthorization process, the Commerce Committee set expansion of service to unserved and underserved audiences as a priority for public radio. Currently, 14% of the American population cannot receive a public radio signal. In fact, the funding we recommended to the Appropriations Committee for the replacement public radio and television satellite systems included increasing public radio's transponder capacity from one transponder to two. This increase is needed to accommodate anticipated growth in public radio programming and new services that will be needed to serve an increased number of public radio stations.

We understand that a proposal now under consideration by the Commission has the potential to render some of public radio's newly purchased C-band transponder capacity unusable. The proposed rechannalization of 3700 - 4200 MHz could disrupt the current guard band protection methods used by the public radio system to assure interference-free operation. As you know, we support the objective of ET Docket No. 92-9 -- redeveloping spectrum to encourage innovation in the use of new telecommunications technologies. However, we are concerned that the proposed rechannalization could potentially preclude expansion of public radio to unserved and underserved audiences and cause interference to the existing system.

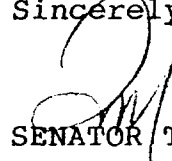
The Congress and the American people have made a significant investment in the replacement of the public radio satellite interconnection system. As Senators who played a major role in securing that investment, we do not want to see that commitment diminished by reducing the available channel capacity on the new system. We urge you to keep in mind the impact on the public radio satellite system as you consider ET Docket No. 92-9. We are hopeful that the Commission will find a way to accommodate the introduction of new technologies without any reduction in capacity on the public radio C-band transponders.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



SENATOR DANIEL INOUE

Sincerely,



SENATOR TED STEVENS